



EXECUTIVE REGULATION

MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION

No. 65-89

EFFECTIVE DATE:

4/12/90

TITLE
FIRST RESPONSE FOR TRENCH COLLAPSE INCIDENTS

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Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission Regulation on:

FIRST RESPONSE FOR TRENCH COLLAPSE INCIDENTS

Issued by: Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission

Regulation No. 65-89

Authority: Code Section 21-4B(e)(3)

Supersedes: No prior regulation

Council Review: Method (2) under Code Section 2A-15

Register Vol. 7, No. 1

Effective Date: April 12, 1990

SUMMARY: This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) outlines a procedure to be used by all fire and rescue personnel when responding to a trench collapse incident, prior to the arrival of the Cave-In Team.

DEADLINES: Montgomery County Fire Board Comment: January 31, 1990
Department of Fire and Rescue Services Comment: January 31, 1990
Fire and Rescue Corporations Comment: January 31, 1990
Montgomery County Register Comment: January 31, 1990

ADDRESS: All comments pertaining to the proposed regulation must be sent to Kevin P. Maloney, Chairman, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission, 12th Floor, 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, MD 20850.

STAFF: For further information, you may contact Steve Davis, Executive Director, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission, on 217-2461.

BACKGROUND: Standard Operating Procedures provide for safe and efficient fire and rescue operations. This SOP outlines the procedure to be followed by fire and rescue personnel who respond to trench collapse incidents before the Cave-In Team Operational Specialty Team arrives on the scene. The guidelines in the SOP are intended to promote the safety of responding personnel as well as to prevent further injury to any victims entrapped.



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Sec. 1. **Purpose.** These guidelines are established to direct the activities of responding units at the scene of trench collapse incidents, prior to the arrival of the Cave-In Team, and to ensure the safety of fire and rescue personnel as well as the entrapped victim(s).

Sec. 2. **Applicability.** This regulation applies to all corporations, the Department of Fire and Rescue Services, and to all fire, rescue, and emergency medical service personnel.

Sec. 3. **Definitions.**

- a. **Apparatus.** Fire and rescue vehicles, including engines, ladder trucks, rescue squads, extrication units, brush trucks, tank wagons, ambulances, Mobile Intensive Care Units (MICUs), and special units.
- b. **Personnel.** All on-duty fire, rescue, and emergency medical service **personnel**, including career, volunteer, and County Merit System employees.
- c. **Unit.** Specific **apparatus** staffed by **personnel** responding to an emergency incident.

Sec. 4. **Policy Statement.** It is the policy of the Fire and Rescue Commission to ensure that safe and efficient procedures are followed by fire and rescue **personnel** on all emergency incidents.



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Sec. 5. Procedure.

a. The first arriving **unit** will:

1. establish initial command in accordance with the Integrated Emergency Command System;
2. position their **unit** at least 250 feet away from the scene and walk to the site;
3. establish an off-site staging area for other responding **apparatus** (while responding, if possible); and,
4. turn off the **apparatus**, if possible.

b. First responding **personnel** will perform an outer circle check as follows:

1. Eliminate sources of vibration for a distance of 500 feet;
 - A. stop and turn off construction equipment; and,
 - B. stop traffic.
2. Identify witnesses to the incident.
3. Identify the job foreman.
4. Send an individual to the site foreman's trailer to determine when the accident occurred and to gather pertinent information, e.g., cut sheets and profile sheets.
5. Consider using the foreman's trailer as a possible Command Post.
6. Begin establishing an incident perimeter, minimum 100 feet.



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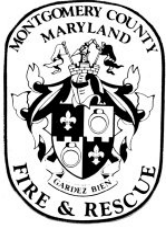
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- c. Perform an inner circle check as follows:
1. Approach the site from one end.
 2. Identify the victim's location.
 3. Identify the number of victims.
 4. Establish the victim's condition, if possible.
 5. Determine how the victim is trapped and whether this is a rescue or a recovery.
 - A. Is the victim completely buried?
 - B. To what depth is the victim buried?
 - C. Is the victim trapped by utilities?
 6. **Personnel** may enter a trench more than 4 feet deep only if it has been adequately shored.
 7. Request non-entrapped individuals who are out of the trench (e.g., construction workers) to assist at ground level, gather lumber, or perform other duties as required.
 8. If the depth of the trench exceeds 15 feet, contact the engineer through a resource list.
 9. Establish a command structure in accordance with the Integrated Emergency Command Structure.
 10. Finish physical 100 foot perimeter and tape area.
 11. Establish and maintain contact with the victim(s).
 12. Confirm notification of the appropriate utilities.



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13. Request that **personnel** from the staging area leave their **apparatus** in the staging area and help clear the site for ground pads.

- A. **Personnel** must not walk around the trench site unless ground pads are in place.
- B. To protect the victim, temporary emergency sheeting and shoring may be placed if appropriate supplies (approved by MOSH) are available on the site.

Sec. 6. **Severability.** If a court of final appeal holds that any part of this regulation is invalid, that ruling does not affect the validity of other parts of the regulation.

Sec. 7. **Effective Date.** This regulation is effective 30 days after Council adoption or 90 days after Council receipt if the Council takes no action within 60 days of its receipt.

Attest:

Kevin P. Maloney, Chairman
Fire and Rescue Commission

Date: April 12, 1990

First Response for Trench Collapse Incidents bf